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SUBJECT: Comments on Soviet Maritime Forces Expanding Reality of the World Seas

Kelt Missile

We estimate the Kelt air-to-surface missile has a range of about 80 nautical miles. Most information suggests the range is in the 70-80 nautical mile category although a limited amount of tracing does indicate firings to 120 nautical miles.

Improvement in Nuclears

We estimate operating depths of 1,500 feet are likely in the mid-1970's.

Underwater Acoustic Sensors

We would modify the last sentence to read--A move toward the use of lower frequencies and more sophisticated signals in order to achieve greater detection range.

Submarine Sonars

We estimate the larger bow arrays give detection ranges of about 30 miles against a noisy target and up to 3 miles against a quiet target. Relatively low frequency active sonars probably are installed on newer submarines, and it is likely these are powerful enough for convergence zone and bottom bounce modes.

Torpedoes

A high priority has been assigned to torpedo R&D since 1953. We estimate current emphasis is on ASW torpedoes with improved homing systems. We view the follow-on 16" torpedo as active/passive acoustic homing, including an air-dropped version. We estimate the weapons system on Moskva probably as an ASROC or Ikara-type weapon.

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Helicopter Carriers

We suggest that antisubmarine cruiser is a more apt description for the Moskva class than is the term carrier. Such usage is compatible with Soviet usage in open and classified statements. Our assessments of Moskva capability indicate only limited ability for logistic or amphibious support.

Kashin

Our estimates of the Kashin class indicate it is equipped with ASW rocket launchers with a range of 6,700 yards--but not of new design. Moreover, sonar capabilities appear moderate.

Osa

We consider the evidence on experiments with a hydrofoil system for Osa to be highly tenuous.